(b) the steps the Government propose to take to repair the heavy losses sustained by the inhabitants of the said district and to alleviate the distress of the poor?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the letter, dated the 7th January 1924, from the Collector of Tinnevelly which was published in the Madras dailies about the 16th January 1924.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know from the Revenue Member whether the Government propose to take any steps to recoup the loss incurred?"

The hon. the RAJA OF KOLLENGODE :—" The Government will do all that is necessary and reasonable."

Floods in the Tinnevelly district.

153 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that serious damage was caused recently on account of heavy flood in the Tinnevelly district leaving thereby 10,000 people homeless; and

(b) what steps the Government have already taken to relieve the suffering of the homeless people?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the letter, dated the 7th January 1924, from the Collector of Tinnevelly which was published in the Madras dailies about the 16th January 1924.

Forests.

Theft of sandalwood in South Kanara.

154 Q.—Mr. B. MAHABALA HEGDE: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(1) the total number of cases and the total amount of penalty levied in the villages of Thenkamijar, Badagamijar, Kallamundkurputtige and Marpady of Karkal taluk, South Kanara, in respect of sandalwood trees stolen from kumki lands;

(2) the revenue assessment payable by each of the wargdars concerned and the amount of penalty levied on each in the above villages;

(3) whether there is not a distillery in the midst of this group of villages in a solitary place surrounded by forests, and if the answer is in the affirmative, how far the said distillery is from the nearest police station;

(4) how many cases of theft of sandalwood trees from kumki lands in the above villages were detected by Government and how many culprits convicted; and what steps are taken about theft of sandalwood trees in forests beyond kumki;

(5) the quantity of sandalwood purchased from Government at auction by the distillery owner referred to in clause (3) above and the quantity of oil sold by him;

(6) whether the wargdars in South Kanara do not live in solitary houses especially in the interior on the foot of wooded hills unlike those in East Coast;

(7) the total amount of similar penalty levied in the district this year till the end of November 1923 and the number of wargdars from whom levied; and

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(8) whether the kumki lands are generally not in continuation of Government forests (reserve or otherwise) ?

A.—(1) & (2) A statement containing the information is placed on the table.*

(3) There is a private sandalwood distillery in Puttige village surrounded by cultivated lands and not by forests. The nearest police station is four miles distant from the distillery.

(4) Twelve cases of theft other than those referred to in clause 1 have been detected since 1918 by forest subordinates. No one was convicted ; in one case the charge against six accused was withdrawn for want of sufficient evidence ; in another, the case was compounded and in the remaining cases the accused could not be traced.

A special staff of one forester and three forest guards is being maintained to prevent theft of sandalwood.

(5) No sandalwood was purchased from the Government by the distillery owner in question and the Government have no authentic information as to the quantity of oil sold by him.

(6) It is generally speaking true that wargdars live in solitary houses.

(7) A total sum of Rs. 392 has been levied as penalty from six wargdars in the North Mangalore division. In the South Mangalore division there has been one case of theft which is under enquiry.

(8) They are generally contiguous to Government forests or unreserved land.

Mr. B. Mahabala Hegde :—" With reference to clause (4) I want to ask whether the Government will take steps to institute proper check ? "

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—" I am afraid, Sir, I must have notice of that question."

High Court Judges.

Number of High Court Judges.

155 *Q.*—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he has since received any definite proposals from the High Court for an increase in the number of Judges ;

(*b*) if so, for how many new Judges ; and

(*c*) whether the Government have sanctioned or recommended to higher authorities any increase in the number of Judges ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Two.

(*c*) No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" The answer to clause (*c*) is 'no'. May I know whether that decision of the Government is final or whether they are still considering the matter and are likely to sanction anything."

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" So far as I can see there is no chance of any further recommendation."

* Printed as Appendix II on page 168 infra.